



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
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## USDA TO MEASURE FARMLAND RENTAL RATES

Lakewood, Colorado – Beginning in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact farmers and ranchers to gather land rental rate information for the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey. The results of this survey will serve as a valuable decision-making tool for farmers, ranchers and other landowners and will help shape negotiations for 2017 rental agreements.

"This brief survey is our only source of county cash rental rates," said NASS' Mountain Region Field Office Director Bill Meyer. "By responding, producers help the farming community when establishing new leases or rental agreements and ensures USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data." NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland on September 9, 2016.

Nearly 23,000 farmers from Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding by mail, or online via a secure Internet connection. In April, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting landowners who have not yet responded.

"We guarantee confidentiality of all individual information, as required by federal law, regardless of the response method participants choose," Bill Meyer said. "NASS will combine your responses with your fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of U.S. average rent and lease rates."

For more information about the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey, call the NASS Colorado Field Office At 800-392-3202. All NASS reports and data are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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